



U.S. Department of Justice

Ronald C. Machen Jr.
*United States Attorney for the
District of Columbia*

*Judiciary Center
555 Fourth St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530*

PRESS RELEASE

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For Information Contact:

Public Affairs

(202) 252-6933

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Former District of Columbia High School Teacher Pleads Guilty to Sexually Abusing Student - First Conviction Under New D.C. Law -

WASHINGTON - Thomas M. Irvin, 48, of Washington, D.C., a former English teacher at H.D. Woodson Senior High School, pled guilty today to sexually abusing one of his students, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Irvin pled guilty in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia to a charge of second degree sexual abuse of a secondary education student.

This is the first conviction under a new District of Columbia law, which took effect in January 2011, that prohibits a teacher, counselor, principal, coach, or other person in a position of authority in a secondary school from engaging in a sexual act or sexual contact with a student enrolled in that school or school system who is under the age of 20.

The Honorable Thomas J. Motley scheduled sentencing for August 24, 2011. Under the court's voluntary sentencing guidelines, the defendant faces a likely sentence of up to two years in prison. He also will be required to register as a sex offender for 10 years.

According to the facts proffered by the government at the plea hearing, in March of 2011, while Irvin was a teacher at Woodson, he sexually abused a student during the school day in a bathroom at the high school, which is located in the 4600 block of Benning Road SE.

In announcing the plea, U.S. Attorney Machen expressed his appreciation to those who worked on the case from the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), including Detectives Doretha Johnson, Darryn Robinson, David Gargac, and Sean Crowley, all of the MPD's Youth Investigations Division. He also recognized the efforts of those who worked on the case from the U.S. Attorney's Office, especially John Marsh of the Criminal Investigations Unit, Victim Advocate Veronica A. Vaughan, Paralegal Kristy Penny, and Legal Assistant Nicole

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Lee. Finally, U.S. Attorney Machen commended Assistant U.S. Attorney HelenAnne Listerman, who investigated and prosecuted the case.

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